

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 01559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: THE SOCIALISTS POSTPONE THEIR
CONGRESS; LIMIT THE SUPPORT THEY CAN GIVE A NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 1471

1. SOCIALIST SECRETARIAT MEETING TODAY POSTPONED PARTY
CONGRESS, INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS AN ECONOMIC
PROGRAM WITH MORO, AND MADE CLEAR THAT, EVEN IF DISCUSSIONS
ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE MOST THE PSI IS NOW PREPARED TO DO IS
TO ABSTAIN BENEVOLENTLY ON IT IS PARLIAMENT.

2. MORO MET WITH THE REPUBLICAN (PRI) DELEGATION YESTERDAY
EVENING TO BROACH THE DC DIRECTORATE'S INSISTENCE ON AGREE-
IN-ADVANCE SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER PARTIES ON A COMPROMISE
ECONOMIC PROGRAM BEFORE PROPOSING ANY NEW GOVERNMENT. PRI
IN EFFECT TOLD THEM TO SEE FIRST WHAT HE CAN GET FROM

SOCIALISTS AND THEN PRI WILL MAKE UP ITS MIND. NEGOTIATIONS
CONTINUE.

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3. COMMENT: REPORTS TODAY REVEAL THAT FIRST CRACK HAS APPEARED IN HITHERTO SOLID DC SUPPORT OF MORO. ANDREOTTI CHARGED HIM WITH FAILING TO MAKE SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THE PSI, AND IN EFFECT OFFERED TO TAKE OVER FROM MORO. SOCIALISTS HAVE INDEED SENT REPEATED SIGNALS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE DC TONZCHANGE HORSES."

4. BOTH THE SOCIALIST AND DC CURRENT POSITIONS ARE MORE EASILY UNDERSTOOD AS EFFORTS TO PASS THE BLAME FOR ULTIMATE DISAGREEMENT, RATHER THAN POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD AN AGREEMENT. DC APPEARS TO HAVE BELATEDLY REALIZED THAT IT MUST AT LEAST COVER ITSELF AGAINST THE CHARGE THAT MORO LIMITED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES TO COALITION FORMULAS, RATHER THAN SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO REACH COMPROMISE ON ECONOMICS.

5. SOCIALIST POSTPONEMENT OF ITS CONGRESS (PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 4-8) IS AN INDICATION THAT PSI EXPECTS CRISIS TO BE PROLONGED. DIRECTORATE WILL MEET SOON TO SET NEW DAT VOLPE

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